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Rodney Lawrence Hurst, Sr. Papers

1-27-2000

Black Heritage Stamp Series: Patricia Roberts Harris

United States Postal Service. Stamp Division

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Issue Date: January 27, 2000

First Day City: Washington, DC

Designer: Richard Sheaff, Scottsdale, Arizona

Typographer: Thomas Mann, Vancouver, Washington

Modeler: Joseph Sheeran

Art Director: Howard Paine, Delaplane, Virginia

Printer: Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd.(APU)

Manufacturing Process: Offset/microprint (USPS)

Colors: Black, cyan, magenta, yellow

Image Area: 0.84 x 1.40 inches or
21.34 x 35.56 millimeters

Format: Self-adhesive pane of 20 (1 design)

Plate Numbers: "P" followed by four (4) single digits

Marginal Markings: © USPS 1999, price, plate numbers,
plate position diagram

Patricia Roberts Harris

The United States has boasted many high achievers, but Patricia Roberts Harris was truly a pioneer. She was the first African-American woman to be an ambassador, a presidential cabinet member, a member of a major corporation's board of directors, a chair of a national political party committee, and a member of the United Nations. She was also the first woman to be a law school dean.

One of Harris's most important "firsts" came at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. Asked to give the seconding address for Lyndon Johnson, Harris became the first African-American woman to have a role in a presidential nomination. In this address, she spoke of issues most dear to her: making the American dream available to disadvantaged people throughout the nation and ensuring that justice, prosperity, and peace reign nationally and internationally.

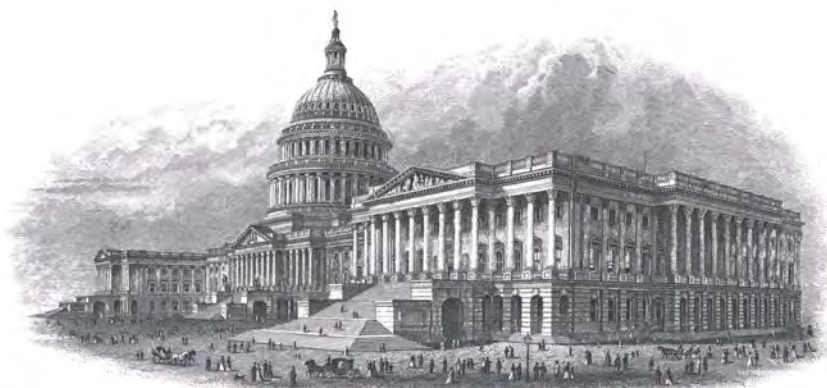
With this 33-cent stamp, the 23rd in the Black Heritage series, the U.S. Postal Service honors Harris. The stamp, which features a photograph of Harris taken in the late 1970s, was issued in Washington, DC, where Harris lived and worked for much of her life.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE



AMERICAN COMMEMORATIVES



Patricia Roberts Harris

In 1924, Patricia Roberts Harris was born to a Pullman dining car waiter and his wife in Mattoon, Illinois. By 1985, when she succumbed to cancer, Harris had amassed a lifetime of achievements; from her early years as an industrious student, to her mature life as a public servant committed to the rights of all Americans, especially members of minority groups.

Harris was a model student. She graduated summa cum laude from Howard University in 1945. In 1960, she graduated first in her class at George Washington University National Law Center. She taught law at Howard for several years and was the law school's first woman dean.

President Lyndon Johnson asked Patricia Harris to give the seconding address for his nomination at the 1964 Democratic National Convention. One year later, he appointed her ambassador to Luxembourg. Both honors were groundbreaking. Harris was the first African-American woman to participate in a presidential nomination or to be an ambassador.



In 1977, President Carter appointed Harris Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. Two years later he appointed her Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. Harris was the first African-American woman to serve on a presidential cabinet.

Like four other stamps in the Black Heritage series, this elegant 33-cent stamp features a photograph. David Valdez, a staff photographer at HUD, took the photograph in the late 1970s, while Harris was the HUD Secretary. Originally in color, the photograph has been reprinted in black and white on this 23rd stamp in the Black Heritage series. This stamp was issued on January 27, 2000, in Washington, DC.




$$\begin{array}{r} .33 \\ \times 20 \\ \hline \$6.60 \end{array}$$

© USPS
1999





STAMP DESIGN: HOWARD PAINE

PROGRAM LAYOUT & DESIGN: PAT MARSHALL DESIGN, INC.

LEFT COVER PHOTOGRAPH: NATIONAL ARCHIVES/COURTESY PHOTOASSIST, INC.


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FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

An extraordinary leader, a champion of civil rights, and a committed public servant, Patricia Roberts Harris was dedicated to improving the quality of life for all Americans. The daughter of a Pullman car waiter, Harris was born May 31, 1924, in Mattoon, Illinois. In 1945, she graduated from the prestigious Howard University, *summa cum laude*. Fifteen years later, she graduated first in her class from the George Washington University National Law Center.  In 1965, Harris became the first African-American woman to hold a U.S. ambassadorship, when President Johnson named her ambassador to Luxembourg. She became the first woman to serve as dean of Howard

University School of Law in 1969. Appointed Secretary of Housing and Urban Development in 1977 by President Carter, Harris was the first African-American woman to serve as a member of a presidential Cabinet. Two years later she was appointed Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.  Known for her steadfast determination and forthrightness, Patricia Roberts Harris fought discrimination and injustice with a keen intelligence and a profound sense of mission. The U.S. Postal Service is proud to honor her with the issuance of the 23rd stamp in the Black Heritage series. It was designed by Howard Paine of Delaplane, Virginia.



Patricia Roberts Harris

COMMEMORATIVE STAMP

First Day of Issue Ceremony • Howard University • Washington, DC • January 27, 2000

Mistress of Ceremonies

MS. SUSAN KIDD

Anchor/Reporter NBC4

Opening Remarks

MS. SUSAN KIDD

Invocation

REV. DR. VASHTI MURPHY MCKENZIE

National Chaplain

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

National Anthem

HOWARD UNIVERSITY CHOIR

Dr. Weldon Norris, Director

Welcome

THE HONORABLE ANTHONY A. WILLIAMS

Mayor, District of Columbia

DR. H. PATRICK SWYGERT

President, Howard University

Introduction of Guests

MS. SUSAN KIDD

Interlude

HOWARD UNIVERSITY CHOIR

Tributes to Patricia Roberts Harris

THE HONORABLE DONNA E. SHALALA

Secretary of Health and Human Services

MARCIA L. FUDGE, ESQ.

National President, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

A Message from Former President Jimmy Carter

MS. SUSAN KIDD

Presentation of the U.S. Postal Service

Black Heritage Series: 1978-1999 and

Introduction of the Dedicating Official

MR. JAMES C. TOLBERT, JR.

Executive Director, Stamp Services

United States Postal Service

Dedication of the Patricia Roberts Harris

Commemorative Stamp

THE HONORABLE LEGREE DANIELS

Member, Board of Governors

United States Postal Service

Remarks

THE HONORABLE SHARON PRATT KELLY

Former Mayor, District of Columbia

Closing Remarks

MS. SUSAN KIDD

Benediction

REV. DR. VASHTI MURPHY MCKENZIE

Postlude

"LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING"

Howard University Choir



PATRICIA ROBERTS HARRIS

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JANUARY 27, 2000





Patricia Roberts Harris
Black Heritage Series



BLACK HERITAGE



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

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Rodney Lawrence Hurst Sr. Papers
Thomas G Carpenter Library
Special Collections

Patricia Roberts Harris

Black Heritage Series

First Day of Issue: *January 27, 2000*

First Day City: *Washington, D.C.,*

where Harris held numerous offices

Stamp Designer: *Howard Paine*

Delaplane, Virginia

Patricia Roberts Harris (1924-1985), who is honored on this U.S. stamp, was an outstanding role model for women. An admired public official and activist during the 1960s and 1970s, she championed the needs of the disadvantaged and advocated fairness and equality for all Americans.

Born in Mattoon, Illinois, Harris earned a scholarship to Howard University in Washington, D.C. She graduated summa cum laude a year ahead of schedule and began her career with the YMCA in Chicago. She later attended George Washington University Law School and graduated

first in her class while working as the national executive director of Delta Sigma Theta sorority.

In 1961 Harris joined the faculty at Howard University and was appointed dean of its law school in 1969. Her academic career was interrupted in 1965, when President Lyndon Johnson named her U.S. ambassador to Luxembourg. She was the first African-American woman to hold an ambassadorial post.

Harris continued to be a "woman of firsts." She was the first African-American female Cabinet officer, serving under President Carter as both Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. She was also the first black woman to sit on the Board of Directors of major corporations such as IBM and Chase Manhattan Bank.